

Congressman Childers Introduces Legislation to Restore the Rights of Gun Owners

August 1, 2008

Washington, DC – Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) yesterday introduced bipartisan legislation to overturn Washington, D.C.'s recently enacted emergency laws that defy last month's Supreme Court decision to outlaw D.C.'s gun ban. Congressman Childers filed the Second Amendment Enforcement Act (H.R. 6691), which was sponsored by Reps. John Dingell (D-MI), John Tanner (D-TN), Mike Ross (D-AR), Mark Souder (R-IN), and 47 other members.

"The Supreme Court recently upheld Americans' fundamental right to bear arms, and yesterday's legislation ensures that this decision is not infringed upon," said Congressman Childers. "I am proud to have introduced the Second Amendment Enforcement Act with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to protect the rights of gun owners. I will continue to fight for the constitutional rights of Mississippians and all Americans."

On June 26, the U. S. Supreme Court held in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that "the District's ban on handgun possession in the home violates the Second Amendment, as does its prohibition against rendering any lawful firearm in the home operable for the purpose of immediate self-defense."

The Supreme Court clearly stated that handguns are constitutionally-protected arms because they are commonly used, are typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes, are considered by the American people to be the quintessential self-defense weapon, are the most popular weapon chosen by Americans for self-defense in the home, and are the most preferred firearm in the nation to keep and use for protection of home and family.

The Second Amendment Enforcement Act will:

- Repeal the District's ban on semi-automatic handguns. Semi-automatic pistols have been the most commonly purchased handguns in the United States over the last 20 years, and

therefore a ban on those firearms is unconstitutional as decided by Heller.

- Repeal the requirement that firearms be disassembled or secured with a trigger lock in the home.

- Repeal the current D.C. registration system that requires multiple visits to police headquarters, ballistics testing, passing a written test on D.C. gun laws, fingerprinting, and limiting registration to one handgun per 90 days.

- Create a limited exemption to the federal ban on interstate handgun sales by allowing D.C. residents to purchase handguns in Virginia and Maryland. Currently there are no firearms dealers in the District of Columbia, and the federal ban prohibits residents from purchasing handguns outside of the District; therefore, District residents have no means of purchasing handguns.

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